

Council of Regions Report

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

July 10, 2008

Prepared and submitted by COR representative, Steve Martin

Regional Organizations Review

The SRFB has funded the operations of six recovery regions since 2002. The regions have completed recovery plans under the ESA that have been approved and accepted by NOAA fisheries and the State of Washington. The organizations are made up of local elected officials, Tribes, and citizens and are supported by technical teams. The recovery plans and organizations are being used to (1) guide habitat protection and restoration investments from myriad funding sources at the ESU and/or MPG (major population grouping) scales, (2) guide monitoring programs consistent with delisting criteria, and (3) serve as a communication forum for citizens and local, state, tribal and the federal government as salmon recovery policies, programs, regulations and investments are considered.

May 16 Regional Organization Policy Summit

On May 16, members of regional organizations joined state, federal, tribal and other participants to discuss three policy matters related to salmon recovery. They discussed (1) how to fund regional plan implementation, (2) how to monitor salmon recovery, and (3) how to integrate salmon recovery with other watershed management programs. The GSRO facilitated this gathering and is reporting to the SRFB; the Council of Regions will be discussing how regions will implement key suggestions made at this gathering.

July 17 meeting - NOAA continued assistance for recovery organizations

Regional Salmon Recovery Organizations continue to refine, implement and report on their respective federally adopted salmon recovery plans. This work requires direct engagement by NOAA Fisheries. NOAA and regional board directors will meet on July 17th to discuss how NOAA and the Boards can best support each others recovery efforts now that recovery plans are moving into the implementation phase.

July 16 Monitoring Forum meeting

Salmon recovery regions are working together to develop a presentation to the July 16th meeting of the Washington Forum on Monitoring. This presentation will review 1) the overall role of regional organizations, 2) the approaches each are taking to coordinate salmon recovery research, monitoring and evaluation , and 3) how regional monitoring priorities can be effectively integrated into state and federal agencies monitoring priorities.

Regional Allocation Task Force

COR appreciates the SRFB including one member from each of the 7 regions on the committee and plan to fully participate in the RTF.